Shortage of personnel in defence services

2350. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of personnel in the defence services in the country;

(b) if so, the extent of shortage in the three forces in the ranks of (i) commissioned officers upto level of Lieutenant General and equivalent rank-wise; (ii) non-commissioned officers and (iii) other ranks;

(c) the reasons for the general shortage in the defence services; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to reduce the shortage in the forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The required information is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Shortage of personnel in defence services

There is a shortage of personnel in defence services. The deficiency in the Officers cadre and Personnel Below Officers Rank (PBOR) in the Army, Air Force and Navy is given below:

	Army	Air Force	Navy
Officers	12099	429	1124
Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR)	No actual shortage	5081	6593

The risk factor involved in soldiering and increased availability of attractive, alternative employment opportunities, have contributed to the shortage.

Several steps have been undertaken by the three Services to fill up the vacant posts. An Image Projection Campaign by the Army has been launched in 1997 and currently Phase-IV of the Campaign is being finalized. In addition seminars, lectures and presentations are organized by the recruiting offices at schools and colleges in order to motivate the youth to join the Army.

Sustained publicity efforts are being undertaken by the Air Force to attract talented and qualified youth into the offcers' cadre. Almost 3000 Schools and Colleges are on the mailing list for sending publicity material. Campus interviews are undertaken by qualified assessors from Selection Boards so as to interact directly with potential candidates and answer their queries about the service. Schools and Colleges are visited regularly for motivational talks.

Extensive publicity and recruitment drives are being carried out by the Navy. Motivation drives are conducted in various colleges/institutions in order to widen the scope of target population.

In addition, the commitment and bravery of the Armed Forces is consistently projected through the electronic and print media. The Directorate of Public Relations of Ministry of Defence regularly interacts with media persons while giving defence related information and endeavours to ensure positive publicity. Regular coverage of defence related events in the print and electronic media help in creating awareness among the masses and motivating the youth to join the Armed Forces. Websites are also operative on the Internet providing career information on the three Services.

Theft in DRDO

2351. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether theft of computers from a Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) Establishment in North Delhi has occurred in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any sensitive data relating to the security set-up had been lost in the incident;

(d) if so, whether Government have taken all precautionary measures to safeguard security set-up in the event of passing of such stolen sensitive data to the enemies of our country;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Government made any arrests in this regard; and